

Olmstead Council Meeting

Tuesday, March 17, 2009

1:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Meeting Minutes

Approved by the Council on May 19, 2009

Members Present: Cindy Beane, Stephen Bowles, Karen Davis, Jeannie Elkins, Nancy Fry, Brenda Hellwig, Cathy Hutchinson, Ann McDaniel, Suzanne Messenger, Bitsy Shaw, Kevin Smith, Vonda Spencer, David Stewart, Vanessa VanGilder, Steve Wiseman, Melissa Wright (for Roy Herzbach)

Members Absent: Elliott Birkhead, Jan Derry, Laura Friend, Regenia Mayne, Penney Hall, Linda Maniak, John Russell, Dave Sanders, Melissa Stacy

Proxies: None

Public: None

Other: Tina Maher, David Sudbeck, Dan Connery

The Olmstead Council meeting was held at the Wilson University Union at WVSU in Institute, West Virginia.

WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Tina Maher, Olmstead Coordinator filled in for David Stewart, Chair until his arrival shortly after the meeting started. Maher called the meeting to order and welcomed Council members. Maher recognized new members: Steve Bowles and Suzanne Messenger. Introductions were made by Council members.

Maher reviewed the agenda and meeting materials. Maher passed around a membership list and asked members to check their contact information for accuracy.

REVIEW & APPROVE MINUTES

Maher introduced the draft minutes from the November 18, 2008 Council meeting, and asked members to review the document.

Ann McDaniel made a motion to accept the minutes with corrections and Kevin Smith seconded the motion. Maher asked for any discussion. No discussion was held and a vote to accept the minutes with corrections was taken with no abstentions or dissenting votes.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Transition Navigator Committee

The Transition Navigator (TN) Committee met on March 5, 2009. Minutes for this meeting were provided to Council members. Steve Wiseman and other committee members provided Council members with an update from this committee.

Members discussed the large number of diversions being worked on by the Transition Navigator (TN) Program. This will be discussed March 24th when Maher meets with the grantees.

Nursing facilities are involuntarily discharging individuals who no longer meeting the level of care criteria. These cases would be appropriate to refer to the TN Program. It was discussed that these individuals typically have a mental health diagnosis. The Bureau for Behavioral Health and Health Facilities (BHBF) should be notified of this situation. Maher will contact Elliott Birckhead, Adult Mental Health Direction at BHBF.

The grant renewal process has started for state fiscal year 2010 that begins on July 1, 2009.

Two start-up funding processes are currently being used: 1) the TN Program; and 2) all other requests (those not going through a TN agency). The TN Program start-up funding process is working well and does not need any major changes.

All other requests for start-up funding go through the Olmstead Office. This process is functional, but improvement is needed. It was discussed to enter into a grant agreement with an administrative agency to manage the start-up funding process for this program.

The committee also discussed the need to have spot reviews for both programs by the Olmstead Office. The current grants provide for this type of review. TN Committee members volunteered to assist with these reviews.

The committee discussed plans for a Transition Summit. This will take place during summer 2009. The Olmstead Office will develop a proposal outlining the general purpose, outcomes, potential participants, small group focus areas, logistics, proposed agenda, and speakers/facilitators based on discussion held by the committee.

Maher reviewed the January-February 2009 data for the Transition Navigator Program. This data was provided in a new grant report format.

Executive Committee

The Executive Committee met on March 6, 2009. A summary of this meeting was provided to Council members. Maher provided Council members with an update from this committee.

The activities of the Transition Navigator Committee were reviewed and input was provided.

The committee reviewed a draft proposal to outline the specifics of Transition Summit. The committee discussed dividing the summit into (3) separate meetings or divide participants into three (3) groups. The three groups are 1) transitioning seniors and people with disabilities from nursing facilities; 2) transitioning people with developmental disabilities; and 3) transitioning people with mental illness.

The committee reviewed the work plan develop by a committee of the Council. The committee gave input for changes to the document.

OLMSTEAD WORK PLAN

Maher reviewed the work plan with Council members. Maher recognized work plan group committee members: Ann McDaniel, Jan Derry, Cathy Hutchinson, Penney Hall, Steve Wiseman, and Dave Sanders. The work plan group has been meeting since November to develop a working document to present to the entire Council.

The work plan group is requesting the Council choose priorities to focus the Council's efforts. Maher reviewed the work plan and how it is formatted, and then introduced the group activity.

Members discussed the need to address "How does this Council affect policy and change?" when completing/implementing the work plan. The Council chose "Eliminating Institutional Bias" and "Community-Based Services" as the two most critical priorities. The Council divided the 10 key areas into 3 groups for better organization.

Group 1: Eliminating Institutional Bias, Community-Based Services, and Quality. The work plan group will work on Group 1 priority areas for developing a strategic work plan.

Group 2: Informed Choice, Identification, Transition, and Diversion. Maher will continue to work with the grant programs and the Transition Navigator Committee on these goals areas.

Group 3: Rights Protection, Reasonable Pace, and Self-Direction. Maher will work with the Executive Committee to determine the best method to work on these goal areas.

The Council will have input into these activities and will be kept up to date with their progress. Maher will send out a notice to all Council members to add to the work plan group.

SYSTEMIC ISSUES

- Council members discussed numerous bills that are before the Legislature during the regular 2009 session. McDaniel informed Council members about a bill that should be introduced this week called the Long Term Care Distribution Act. This could address the elimination of institutional bias in West Virginia. Maher will send a notice to Council members when this legislation is introduced.
- Aged and Disabled Waiver and MR/DD Waiver Programs will be holding public forums for input into the 2010 renewal process. Maher will send Council members notices on these forums.
- Wiseman informed Council members about the state constructing two (2) new ICF/MR facilities to replace existing structures. He stated this should be an opportunity for the state to make a shift from institutional care to community-based services.
- McDaniel reviewed activities taking place around the Nurse Practice Act and AMAP Policies.

OTHER BUSINESS/PUBLIC COMMENT/ ADJOURNMENT

Stewart asked Council members about other business that needed to be discussed prior to adjournment.

- Stewart announced the WV Mental Health Consumers' Association, ADA Coalition, and WV Advocates is sponsoring a training on *Employment Issues for People with Psychiatric Disabilities* on June 19th.
- Kevin Smith stated the need to have a housing representative on the Council is very important. Maher will get Pete Minter or his designee to the next meeting.
- Maher informed members of stipend support available through the Olmstead Office to attend state training opportunities. Wiseman informed members of two trainings the Council is sponsoring. Registration information has been sent to members for *Strangers in the House* and *Protecting the Lives of Hospital Patients*.
- Maher informed the Council that she will be presenting *Olmstead and Balancing the Long Term Care System* at the Spring 2009 Social Workers Conference.
- No public comments were made.

Nancy Fry made a motion to adjourn the meeting and no objections were voiced. The meeting was adjourned at 3:54 PM.

Next meeting will be held on May 19, 2009 from 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM at the Erickson Alumni Center in Institute, WV.